

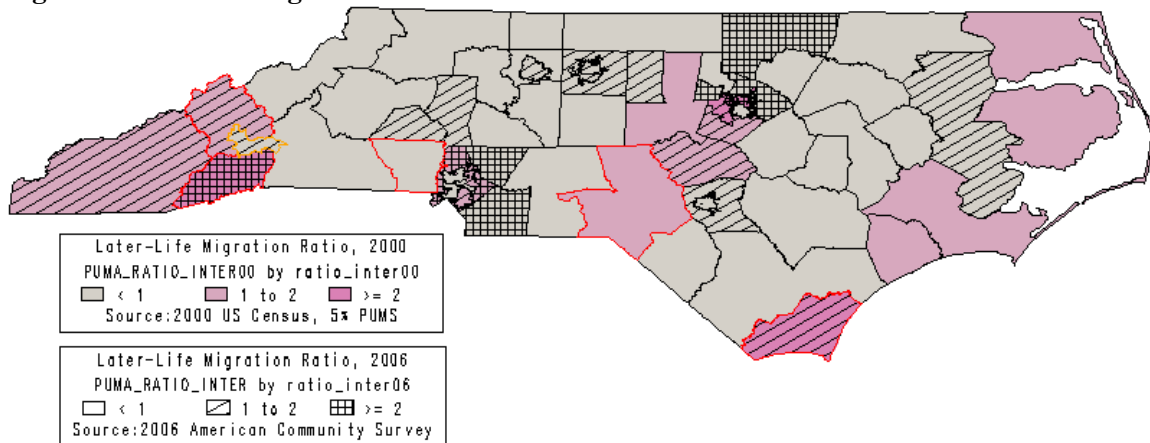
Volume and Composition of Later-life Migration Flows for North Carolina and Selected Counties

In order to characterize the volume and composition of later-life migration flows into selected North Carolina counties, we employ individual-level data from the Census Bureau. The descriptive statistics that follow represent weighted estimates based on individual-level Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS) data from the 2000 US Census and the 2006 American Community Survey (ACS). Our estimates are subject to sampling error. Though space limitations prohibit treatment of this issue here, technical documentation is available on the Census Bureau website (www.census.gov). The advantage of PUMS data is that we can identify and characterize older in-migrants. However, individual level data provide limited spatial information; the smallest geographic units defined are Public Use Microdata Areas (PUMA's), which are bounded so as to include no less than 100,000 persons. PUMAs in North Carolina sometimes comprise parts of counties, whole counties, or groups of counties.

In the discussion to follow, a later-life migrant is defined as a non-institutionalized person over the age of 60 who reports having moved across state lines. In the 2000 Census respondents were asked if they had moved within the previous five years; the reporting period for the 2006 ACS covers moves in the year prior to the interview. Thus, estimates from the 2000 and 2006 data are not directly comparable.

Figure 1 below depicts the later-life migration ratio across PUMA's in North Carolina from the 2000 Census and the 2006 ACS. The later-life migration ratio for a given PUMA is calculated by dividing the percentage of later-life migrants moving to that PUMA by the percentage of North Carolinians 60+ living in that same PUMA. Results in Figure 1, are not surprising. Later-life migrants appear to be pretty consistently overrepresented in coastal and mountain regions of the state. Henderson and Transylvania counties in 2000 and 2006, for example, received more than twice as many later-life migrants than would be expected based on the percentage of North Carolinians aged 60 and older living in these two counties.

Figure 1. Later-life Migration Ratios across NC PUMAs



Based on data from the 2000 US Census, North Carolina received an estimated 73,157 non-institutionalized later-life migrants between 1995 and 2000. Table 1, provides specific estimates from the 2000 Census for PUMAs containing counties of special interest. Henderson and Transylvania Counties along with Brunswick and New Hanover Counties stand out; between 1995-2000 they both received no less than about 4,900 later-life migrants comprising well over 10% of the 60 and older population. Worth noting, two PUMAs experienced negative net migration during the period, S. Buncombe County and Gaston and Lincoln Counties. However,

we should point out that PUMA-level estimates aggregate different kinds of communities. Areas adjacent to the Charlotte metro area may be sharply impacted by later-life migration though this effect may be diluted by low-levels of in-migration in the rest of Gaston and Lincoln Counties.

Table 1. Later-Life Migration Flows for Selected North Carolina PUMAs, 2000

	No. of In-Migrants	No. of Out-Migrants	Net-Migration	In-Migrants as a Pct. of 60+ Pop.	Share of NC In-Migrants	Later-Life Migration Ratio
N. Buncombe and Madison Counties*	1,942	1,344	598	.086	.027	1.454
S. Buncombe County*	937	1,221	-284	.046	.013	.772
Henderson and Transylvania Counties	4,941	2,353	2,588	.160	.068	2.704
Gaston and Lincoln Counties	849	1,001	-152	.021	.012	.357
Moore, Richmond, Hoke, and Scotland Counties	3,252	1,378	1,874	.093	.044	1.561
Brunswick and New Hanover Counties	5,804	2,369	3,435	.133	.079	2.246
*PUMA of origin codes, aggregate all of Buncombe and Madison Counties. Out-migrants are apportioned to the S. Buncombe and N. Buncombe and Madison PUMAs assuming a constant out-migration rate among those 60 and older.						
Source: 2000 US Census, 5% Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)						

The impact of older migrants for receiving communities is only partly a function of the number of new arrivals, equally important are the characteristics of older in-migrants. Table 2 compares selected characteristics of later-life migrants both those native to North Carolina and those born outside the state to resident seniors, persons aged 60 or older who did not report a move between 1995 and 2000. Though space limitations prohibit a full discussion, from Table 2 it is evident that later-life migrants born outside North Carolina as compared to resident seniors, are somewhat younger, less likely to be disabled, twice as likely to have a college degree, and report substantially higher family income.

Table 2. Demographic Profile of Later-Life Migrants and Resident Seniors, 2000

	Aged 60-64	Aged 65-74	Aged 75 and older	Disabled	Married	College Degree	White	Homeowner	Median Family Income
Later-Life Migrants, non-natives	.334	.401	.265	.329	.626	.304	.904	.623	\$42,800
Later-Life Migrants, NC natives	.367	.388	.245	.425	.472	.183	.655	.595	\$31,300
Resident Seniors	.245	.429	.325	.423	.604	.141	.825	.844	\$30,700
Source: 2000 US Census, 5% Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)									

Table 3 examines the characteristics of later-life migrants and resident seniors across each of the PUMAs containing the study counties. Results suggest that in most cases the statewide patterns observed in Table 2 are replicated in the PUMAs analyzed. Gaston and Lincoln counties comprise an exception; non-native later-life migrants may have somewhat higher earnings than resident seniors but they otherwise do not appear to be positively selected. Notably senior adults move for widely varying reasons. The characteristics of a particular community condition the kinds of older migrants who are attracted. Not all receiving areas will be able to offer the kinds of amenities desired by highly-educated affluent seniors.

Table 3. Demographic Profile of Later-Life Migrants and Resident Seniors across Selected North Carolina PUMAs, 2000.

Panel A. Moore, Richmond, Hoke, and Scotland Counties									
	Aged 60-64	Aged 65-74	Aged 75 and older	Disabled	Married	College Degree	White	Homeowner	Median Family Income
Later-Life Migrants, non-natives	.246	.461	.292	.235	.810	.386	.908	.774	\$57,800
Later-Life Migrants, NC natives	.561	.281	.158	.362	.348	.216	.754	.536	\$37,470
Resident Seniors	.218	.443	.338	.403	.588	.195	.785	.855	\$32,400
Panel B. Gaston and Lincoln Counties									
	Aged 60-64	Aged 65-74	Aged 75 and older	Disabled	Married	College Degree	White	Homeowner	Median Family Income
Later-Life Migrants, non-natives	.391	.254	.355	.638	.439	.078	.922	.459	\$39,000
Later-Life Migrants, NC natives*	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Resident Seniors	.258	.433	.309	.442	.607	.089	.913	.833	\$28,400
Panel C. Henderson and Transylvania Counties									
	Aged 60-64	Aged 65-74	Aged 75 and older	Disabled	Married	College Degree	White	Homeowner	Median Family Income
Later-Life Migrants, non-natives	.302	.494	.204	.201	.791	.447	.988	.880	\$42,200
Later-Life Migrants, NC natives	.425	.349	.226	.235	.547	.277	.947	.721	\$32,900
Resident Seniors	.189	.422	.389	.333	.664	.265	.978	.903	\$34,200
Panel D. N. Buncombe and Madison Counties									
	Aged 60-64	Aged 65-74	Aged 75 and older	Disabled	Married	College Degree	White	Homeowner	Median Family Income
Later-Life Migrants, non-natives	.307	.375	.318	.346	.707	.325	.984	.687	\$47,000
Later-Life Migrants, NC natives*	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Resident Seniors	.248	.409	.343	.415	.646	.152	.985	.898	\$30,000
Panel E. S. Buncombe									
	Aged 60-64	Aged 65-74	Aged 75 and older	Disabled	Married	College Degree	White	Homeowner	Median Family Income
Later-Life Migrants, non-natives	.274	.329	.397	.327	.362	.353	.939	.435	\$36,104
Later-Life Migrants, NC natives*	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	.
Resident Seniors	.209	.421	.370	.381	.618	.219	.886	.817	\$35,600
Panel F. Brunswick and New Hanover Counties									
	Aged 60-64	Aged 65-74	Aged 75 and older	Disabled	Married	College Degree	White	Homeowner	Median Family Income
Later-Life Migrants, non-natives	.436	.406	.159	.219	.717	.331	.990	.774	\$50,300
Later-Life Migrants, NC natives	.480	.417	.103	.226	.716	.222	.661	.803	\$39,100
Resident Seniors	.232	.445	.322	.407	.641	.183	.871	.868	\$35,000
*Insufficient number of cases available for analysis.									
Source: 2000 US Census, 5% Public Use Microdata Sample									

Data from the 2006 ACS allow us to update results from the 2000 Census somewhat. For 2006, among non-institutionalized North Carolinians aged 60 and older, an estimated 27,606 had arrived from out-of-state within the previous year. Table 4 presents later-life migration estimates for selected PUMA's. As in 2000, Henderson and Transylvania counties and Brunswick and New Hanover counties captured particularly large shares of all the later-life in-migrants arriving in the state, 5.5% and 6.9% respectively.

Table 4. Later-Life Migration* across Selected PUMAs, 2006.

	No. of In-Migrants	No. of Out-Migrants	Net-Migration	In-Migrants as a Pct. of 60+ Pop.	Share of NC In-Migrants	Later-Life Migration Ratio
N. Buncombe and Madison Counties**	569	655	-86	.022	.021	1.132
S. Buncombe County**	694	547	147	.032	.025	1.656
Henderson and Transylvania Counties	1,527	501	1,026	.046	.055	2.378
Gaston and Lincoln Counties	237	189	48	.005	.009	.261
Moore, Richmond, Hoke, and Scotland Counties	506	342	164	.012	.018	.646
Brunswick and New Hanover Counties	1,917	1,951	-34	.034	.069	1.781
*Interstate move reported by respondent within the year prior to the interview.						
**PUMA of origin codes, aggregate all of Buncombe and Madison Counties. Out-migrants are apportioned to the S. Buncombe and N. Buncombe and Madison PUMAs assuming a constant out-migration rate among those 60 and older.						
Source: 2006 American Community Survey, Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)						

Table 5 provides descriptive statistics for later-life migrants and resident seniors in North Carolina. Findings again demonstrate that non-native later-life migrants appear to be particularly well-educated. Moreover, there remains a substantial income gap between later-life migrants and resident seniors.

Table 5. Demographic Profile of Later-Life Migrants* and Resident Seniors for North Carolina as a Whole, 2006

	Aged 60-64	Aged 65-74	Aged 75 and older	Disabled	Married	College Degree	White	Homeowner	Median Family Income
Later-Life Migrants, non-natives	.308	.428	.264	.375	.492	.345	.841	.484	\$56,800
Later-Life Migrants, NC natives	.508	.337	.154	.344	.411	.254	.643	.680	\$42,000
Resident Seniors	.288	.395	.317	.394	.594	.190	.821	.808	\$45,000
*Interstate move reported by respondent within the year prior to the interview.									
Source: 2006 American Community Survey Public Use Microdata Sample (PUMS)									

The 2006 ACS does not include a sufficient number of cases to allow us to construct demographic profiles across North Carolina PUMA's. An updated PUMA-specific descriptive analysis will have to await the collection of additional ACS data. The ACS was fully implemented in 2005 and ACS data are collected on a yearly basis. In the future, multiple years can be aggregated to produce PUMA-specific descriptive profiles. These and other issues related to later-life migration can be addressed through the proposed Retirement Migration Initiative of the Center on Aging of the ECU Brody School of Medicine including participation of investigators from multiple UNC campuses.

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